

wind energy systems, an increase of \$9,931,000 over the budget request. The increase is to support integration of wind power and other renewable sources into the electricity grid.

Geothermal Technology.—Funding under this heading in the amended bill includes \$20,000,000, an increase of \$20,000,000 over the budget request, for deployment of large-scale enhanced geothermal systems, to include accelerating the development of subsurface technologies, including geological and geophysical data collection and synthesis.

Water Power Energy R&D.—Funding under this heading in the amended bill provides \$10,000,000, an increase of \$10,000,000 over the budget request, for research on conventional hydropower technologies and innovative waterpower technologies, such as thermal and wave technologies, for ocean, tidal and instream-based generation.

Vehicle Technologies.—Funding under this heading in the amended bill provides \$215,000,000 for vehicle technologies, an increase of \$38,862,000 over the budget request, to include \$95,000,000 for hybrid electric systems, an increase of \$14,336,000 over the request for advanced battery storage technology research, development and demonstration for electric, hybrid-electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. The Department is directed to fund \$45,000,000 for advanced combustion engine research and development, \$40,000,000 for materials technology, \$18,000,000 for fuels technology, and \$17,000,000 for technology integration. The agency should within available funds competitively bid an award for the Advanced Vehicle Testing Activity within the FreedomCAR and Vehicle Technologies Program to independently test and evaluate all vehicles developed in the upcoming plug-in hybrid electric vehicle demonstration. The Appropriations Committees support the lightweight materials technology research and development on advanced high-strength steels to reduce the weight of commercial and passenger vehicles.

Building Technologies.—Funding under this heading in the amended bill provides \$110,000,000 for building technologies, an increase of \$23,544,000 over the budget request. The Department is directed to fund \$10,000,000 of this increase for the residential and commercial building technologies program, \$5,000,000 for solid state lighting, and \$8,544,000 for equipment standards and analysis.

Industrial Technologies.—Funding under this heading in the amended bill includes \$65,000,000 for industrial technologies, an increase of \$19,002,000 over the budget request. The Office of EERE should reconstitute a distributed energy research and development program, and direct \$10,000,000 of the increase for the advanced reciprocating engines system program and \$5,000,000 for the combined heat and power program. The agency should, within available funds, provide no less than \$3,700,000 for steel in the industries (specific) program, and \$3,000,000 for the information technology industry, from chip scale to data centers.

Federal Energy Management Programs.—Funding under this heading in the amended bill provides \$20,000,000 for the Federal Energy Management Programs, an increase of \$3,209,000 over the budget request.

Facilities and Infrastructure.—Funding under this heading in the amended bill provides \$76,876,000 for the renewable energy Facilities and Infrastructure account, an increase of \$69,144,000 over the budget request. This amount includes \$6,982,000 for operations and maintenance of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, Colorado, the same as the budget request, an increase of \$6,894,000 for South Table Mountain infrastructure, an increase of \$8,000,000 for NREL solar equipment recapitalization, and an increase of \$55,000,000 to begin the NREL Energy Systems Integration Facility.

Program Support.—Funding under this heading in the amended bill provides \$10,900,000 for Program Support, a decrease of \$2,381,000 below the budget request, but the same as fiscal year 2007 levels. Within available funds, the Office of EERE should establish a FACA-chartered Federal Advisory Council to advise the Office of EERE for Finance, Investment and Technology Deployment.

Program Direction.—Funding under this heading in the amended bill provides \$105,013,000 for Program Direction, the same as the budget request.

Federal Energy Assistance Programs.—Funding under this heading in the amended bill provides a total of \$473,752,000 for federal energy assistance programs, instead of \$314,947,000 as proposed by the House and \$398,575,000 as proposed by the Senate. The details of these accounts are as follows:

Weatherization Assistance.—Funding under this heading in the amended bill provides

\$224,758,000 for weatherization assistance program grants, an increase of \$85,308,000 over the budget request, and \$4,550,000 for training and technical assistance, the same as the budget request. The funds provided for federal technical assistance and training are intended to be used exclusively to support the effective delivery of weatherization services as set forth in statute and applicable regulations. Any change in program implementation should be proposed to Congress in the Department's budget submission and not implemented before congressional approval is obtained.

International Renewable Energy Program.—No funds are provided for the International Renewable Energy Program, the same as the budget request.

Asia Pacific Initiative.—No funds are provided for the Asia Pacific Initiative, a decrease of \$7,500,000 below the budget request.

Tribal Energy Activities.—Funding under this heading in the amended bill provides \$6,000,000 for tribal energy activities, an increase of \$3,043,000 over the budget request for additional tribal energy projects.

Renewable Energy Production Incentive.—Funding under this heading in the amended bill provides \$5,000,000 for the Renewable Energy Production Incentive, an increase of \$54,000 over the budget request.

State Energy Program.—Funding under this heading in the amended bill provides \$44,500,000 for the State Energy Program, a decrease of \$1,001,000 below the budget request, to include \$10,000,000 for competitive energy projects.

Congressionally Directed Projects.—Funding under this heading in the amended bill provides \$188,944,000 for Congressionally directed projects, for the purposes of research, development, and demonstration of energy efficiency or renewable energy technologies or programs. The agency should remind recipients that statutory cost sharing requirements may apply to these projects. The fiscal year 2006 Energy and Water Development Conference Report (P.L. 109-103), included language within the Wind Energy program of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy account directing \$750,000 for the Tower Power Project. Because the project did not come to fruition, the agency should redirect the remaining \$742,500 of prior funds from the Tower Power Project to fund the University of Maryland Energy Research Center.